

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Original) An alkaline battery comprising:
a cathode comprising an additive, the additive including a barium salt and a coating on a surface of the barium salt, and a manganese dioxide;
an anode comprising zinc;
a separator between the cathode and the anode; and
an alkaline electrolyte in contact with the cathode and the anode.

12. (Original) The battery of claim 11, wherein the coating is electrically conductive.

13. . (Original) The battery of claim 12, wherein the coating includes a metal oxide.

14. (Original) The battery of claim 13, wherein the metal oxide is a tin oxide.

15. (Original) The battery of claim 11, wherein the barium salt includes barium sulfate, barium hydroxide, barium carbonate, or barium oxide.

16. (Original) The battery of claim 11, wherein the manganese dioxide is an electrolytic manganese dioxide.

17. (Previously Presented) The battery of claim 11, wherein the service life of the battery in an intermittent discharge test is at least 2% longer than the service life of a battery lacking the additive.

18. (Previously Presented) The battery of claim 11, wherein the service life of the battery in an intermittent discharge test is at least 3% longer than the service life of a battery lacking the additive.

19-42. (Cancelled).